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LET'S·READ·TOGETHER

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

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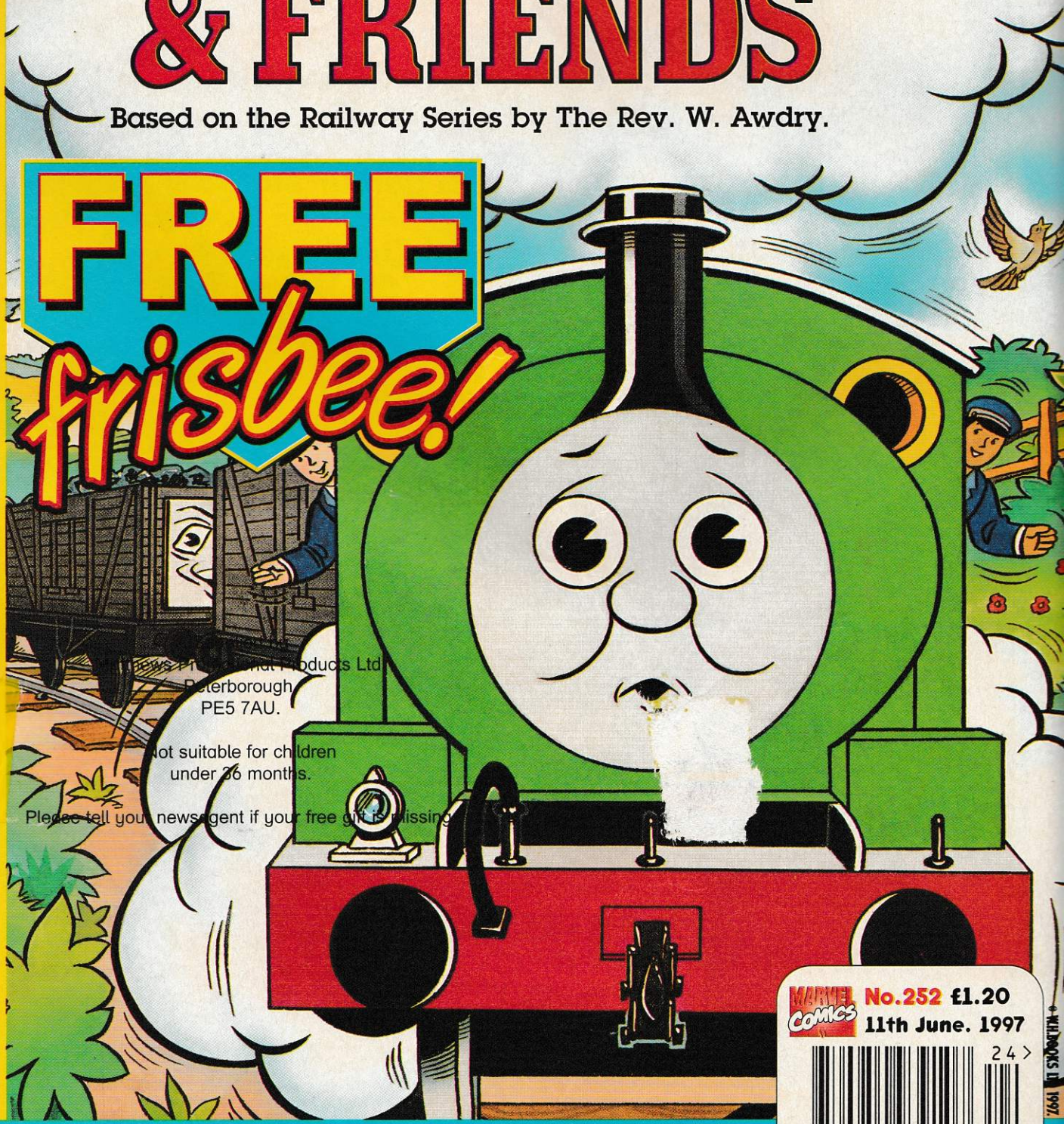

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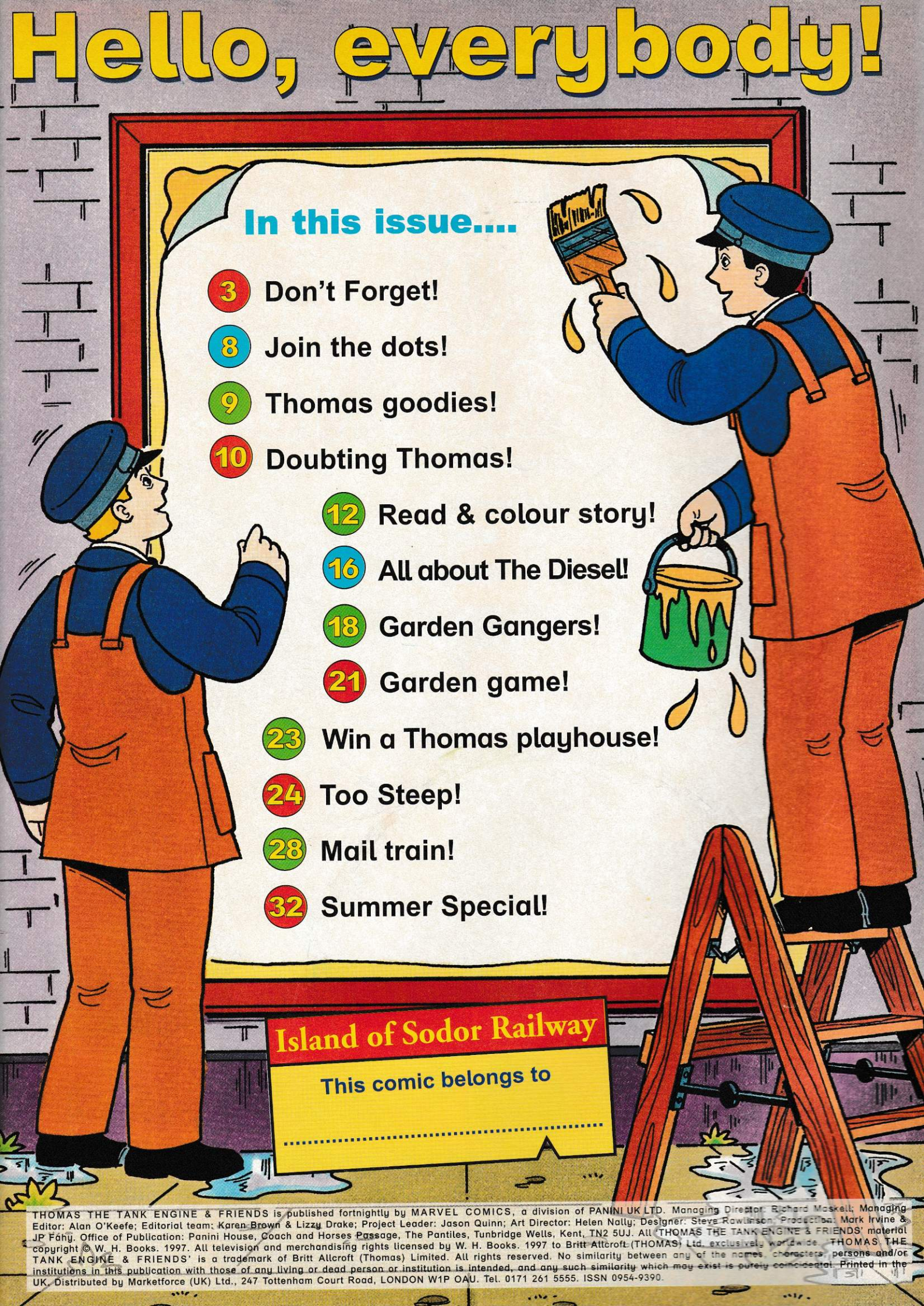
Stories · Games · Colouring

Hello, everybody!



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Island of Sodor Railway

This comic belongs to

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THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS is published fortnightly by MARVEL COMICS, a division of PANINI UK LTD. Managing Director: Richard Maskell; Managing Editor: Alan O'Keefe; Editorial team: Karen Brown & Lizzy Drake; Project Leader: Jason Quinn; Art Director: Helen Nally; Designer: Steve Rowlinson; Production: Mark Irvine & JP Fahy. Office of Publication: Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 5UJ.

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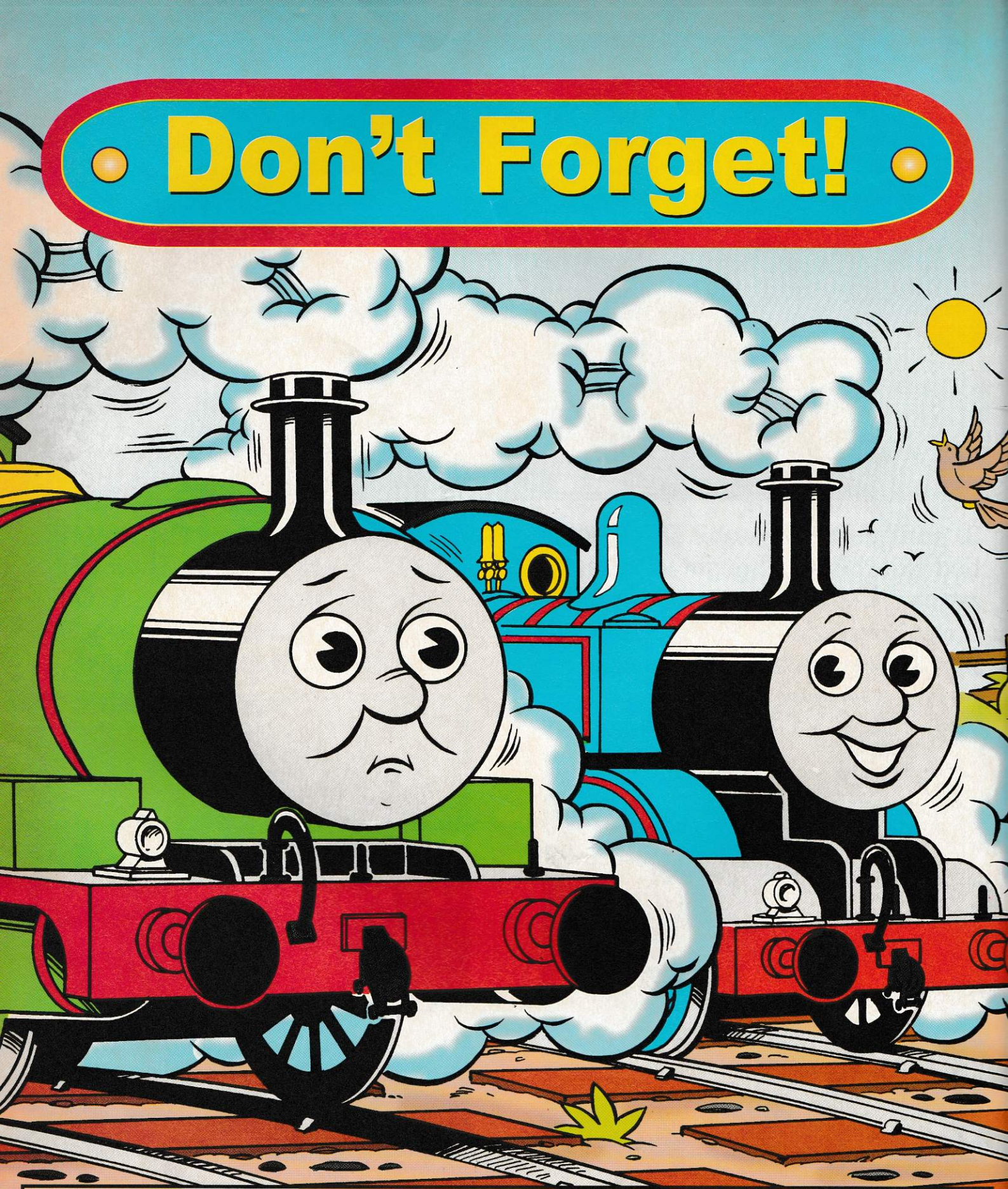
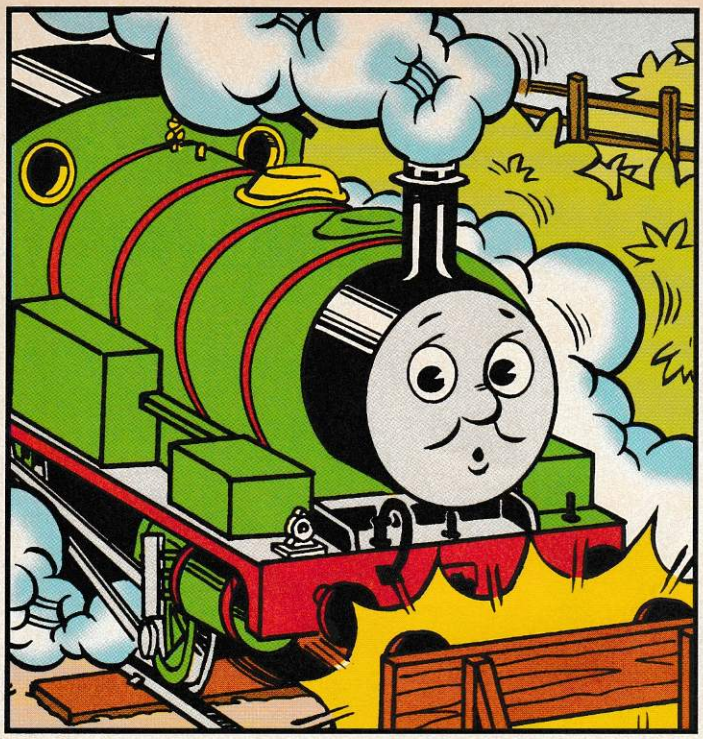
Printed in the UK. Distributed by Marketforce (UK) Ltd., 247 Tottenham Court Road, LONDON W1P OAU. Tel. 0171 261 5555. ISSN 0954-9390.

Don't Forget!



1. Percy wasn't feeling very happy. He thought the Fat Controller had given him far too much work. "It's not fair!" he grumbled to Thomas. "I've lots more to do than everyone else."

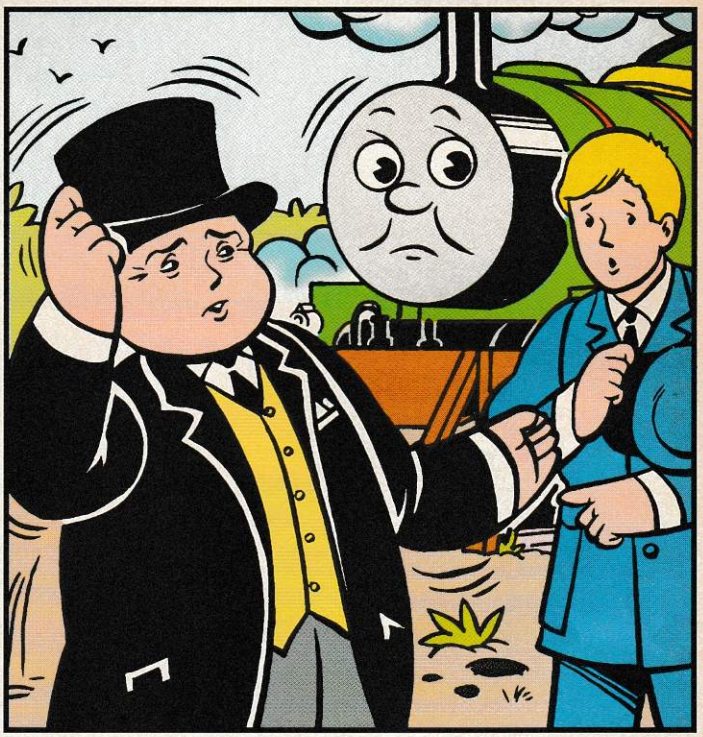
2. "That's not like you, Percy," said Thomas. "I just feel like complaining," Percy went on. "If I were you, I'd just forget about it," smiled Thomas, shaking his head, as he puffed past.



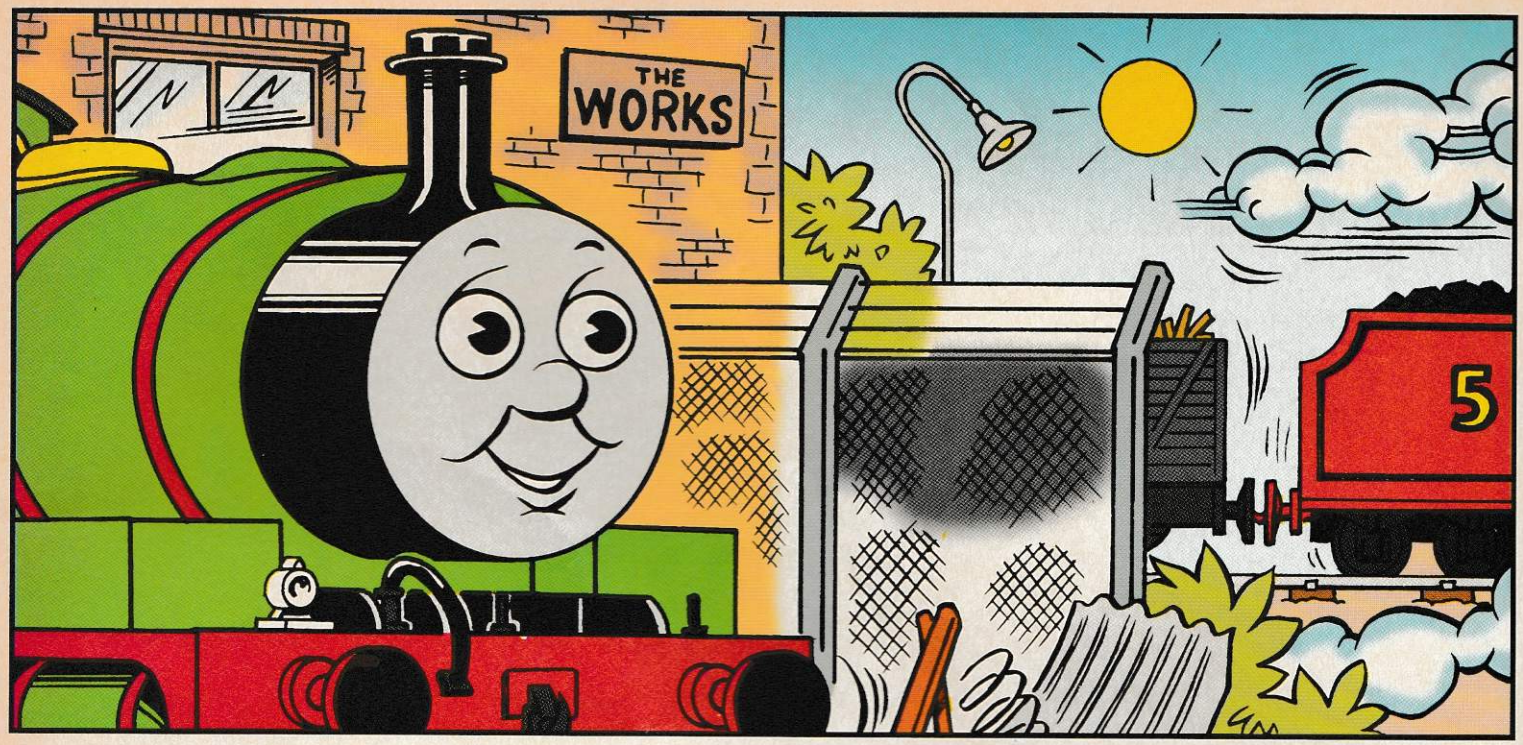
3. “H’mm! Forget it, eh? That’s not a bad idea!” Percy thought to himself, mischievously. As he took some trucks into a siding, he bumped into the buffers with a wobbling jolt.

4. Percy was stunned! He blew out thick smoke and steam. The Fat Controller came rushing over. “Oh dear, what happened?” he asked. “I’m not sure,” said Percy’s driver.

5. “Are you all right, Percy,” he called. There was no reply. “Percy, say something,” said the Fat Controller. Percy just looked blank. “Are you talking to me?” he asked.

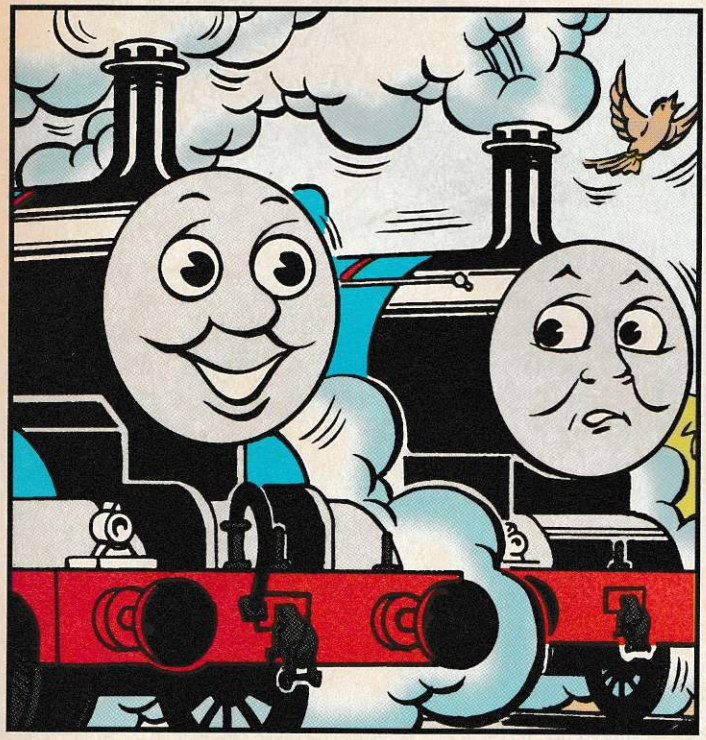


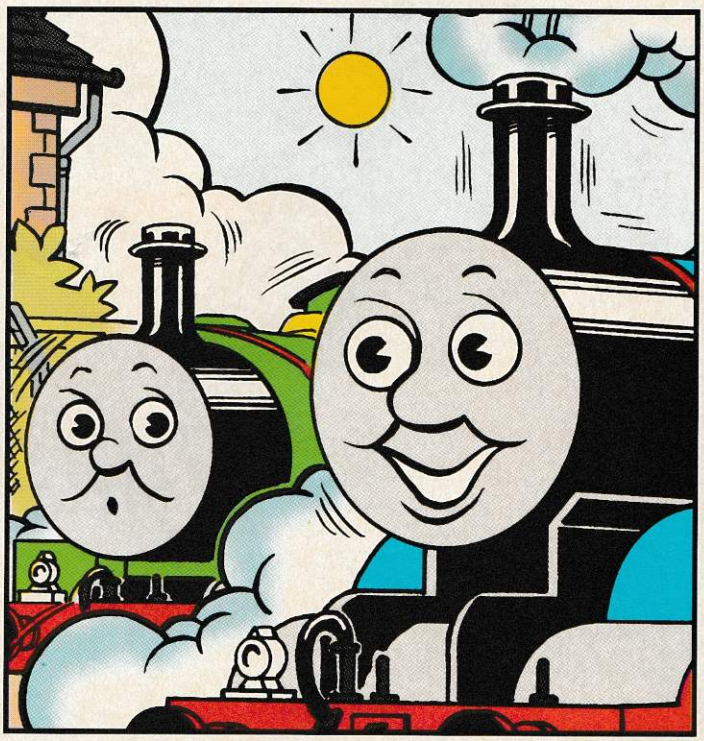
6. “Of course! You are Percy, aren’t you?” said the Fat Controller. “Am I?” replied Percy, puzzled. “If you say so. Who are you?” “I think he’s lost his memory!” said his driver.



7. If Percy didn't even know his own name, he could hardly be expected to remember all his jobs! So little Percy was taken out of service, and sent to the Works to recover.

8. "My plan worked perfectly!" he grinned, secretly. Percy lazily watched all the engines hurtling past, pulling freight or passenger trains. They had to do all Percy's jobs too!





9. "I think Percy's lost his memory on purpose!" Edward moaned to Thomas. "I'll find out for you," smiled the little tank engine. Later, Thomas stopped at a signal by Percy.

10. "The last job of the day is very exciting," Thomas told him. "It's to pull a Seaside Special. It'll be full of people going to a show on the pier. What a shame you can't take it!"

11. After Thomas left, Percy told the Works' engineers that he was feeling much better, and rushed off to see the Fat Controller. "I'd like to help the others now," Percy began.

12. "Perhaps I could do the last job today for them," he added. "Super!" said the Fat Controller. But Percy was shocked when he was coupled to a long line of empty trucks.

13. He was even more dismayed as his driver took him to the Big Harbour and filled them with dusty, dirty coal. That evening, Percy was last to return to the Main Station.

14. Thomas was waiting. "You fooled me! There was no Seaside Special," said Percy. "But I did deserve it." "Two can play tricks," said Thomas. "Don't forget!"

Dot to dot!

The children are busy planting and sowing, join the dots to see what they're growing!

When you've finished, colour in this page!

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THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

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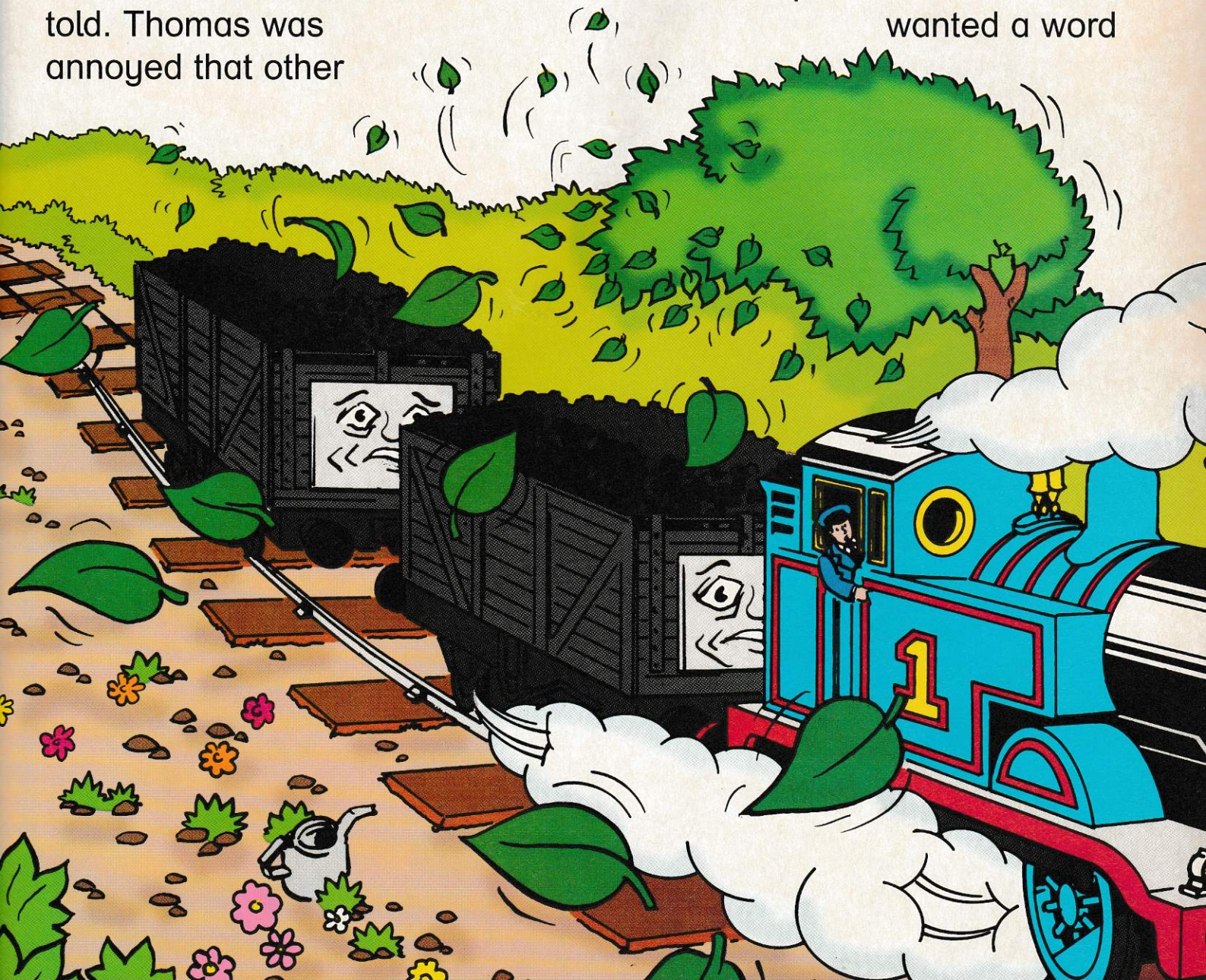
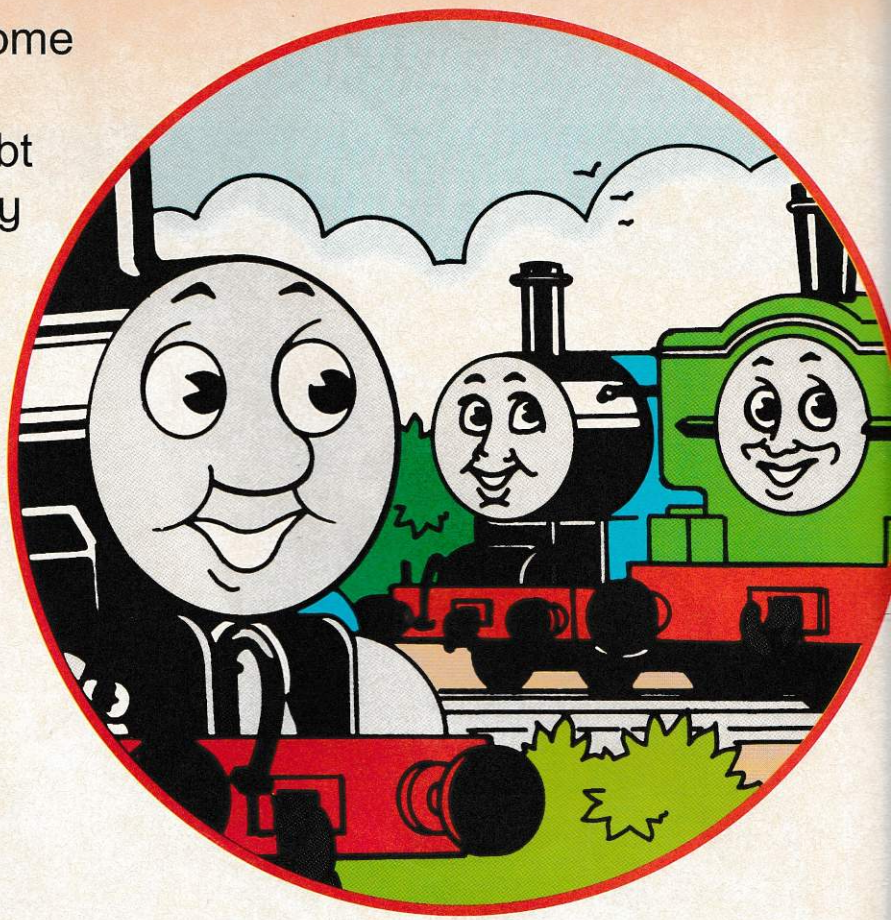
Doubting Thomas!

One morning, Thomas was surprised to overhear the Fat Controller call his driver a 'Doubting Thomas'. The little engine was puzzled. "I thought I was the only Thomas around here!" he remarked. But then the driver explained that a 'Doubting Thomas' is what we call someone who never believes what he is told. Thomas was annoyed that other people were being called his name, so he decided to become the biggest 'Doubting Thomas' ever! "The coal trucks will be ready for you to pick up at twelve o'clock," said the Fat Controller. "I doubt it!" said Thomas. "They'll probably turn up next Tuesday!" The trucks were not amused.

Later, poor, overworked Duck wanted a word



with Thomas. "I might need some help from you this afternoon," Duck told Thomas. "Oh, I doubt it!" he remarked, chuffing away unhelpfully! Duck frowned. It was becoming quite a blowy day and all the sensible engines were keeping an eye on the weather. "You'd better take it slowly in these high winds," warned Edward, passing Thomas in the goods yard. "They could cause an accident!" "Do you think so? I doubt it!" remarked Doubting Thomas, breezily.



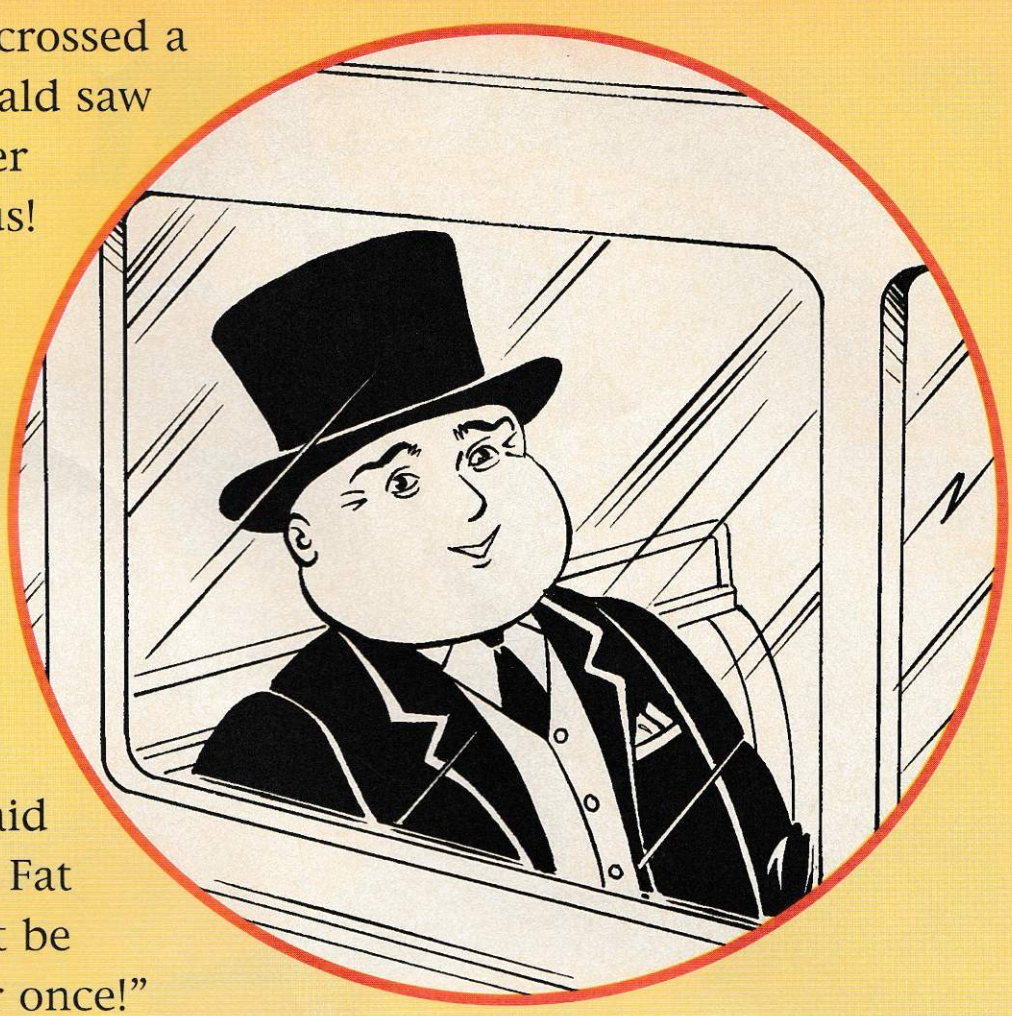
The wind was the last thing on Thomas' mind, as he rushed about his work that afternoon. He was too busy thinking up new things not to believe! He was just rounding a bend, by the Chalk Downs, at high speed, when a sudden gale blew. His trucks swayed and wobbled, then ran off the rails. There was a long delay, as Thomas waited for help. "If only I had listened to Edward's sensible advice!" he moped to himself. Thomas shivered in the wind while the trucks were lifted back into place and the line repaired. That night Thomas was feeling sorry for himself. "I had a really, rotten day today!" poor Thomas wailed. "Humph! I don't believe you!" Duck remarked carelessly, remembering how disagreeable Thomas was earlier. Thomas realised that he was losing his friends. He saw how silly it was not to believe people all the time. He explained to his friends how sorry he was. "In future, I won't be a 'Doubting Thomas'. I'll be a 'Useful Thomas!' And I'll always, always listen to you!" he promised Edward and Duck. Thomas' friends smiled. "I doubt it!" they laughed.

A read & colour story

The Fat Controller's Journey!

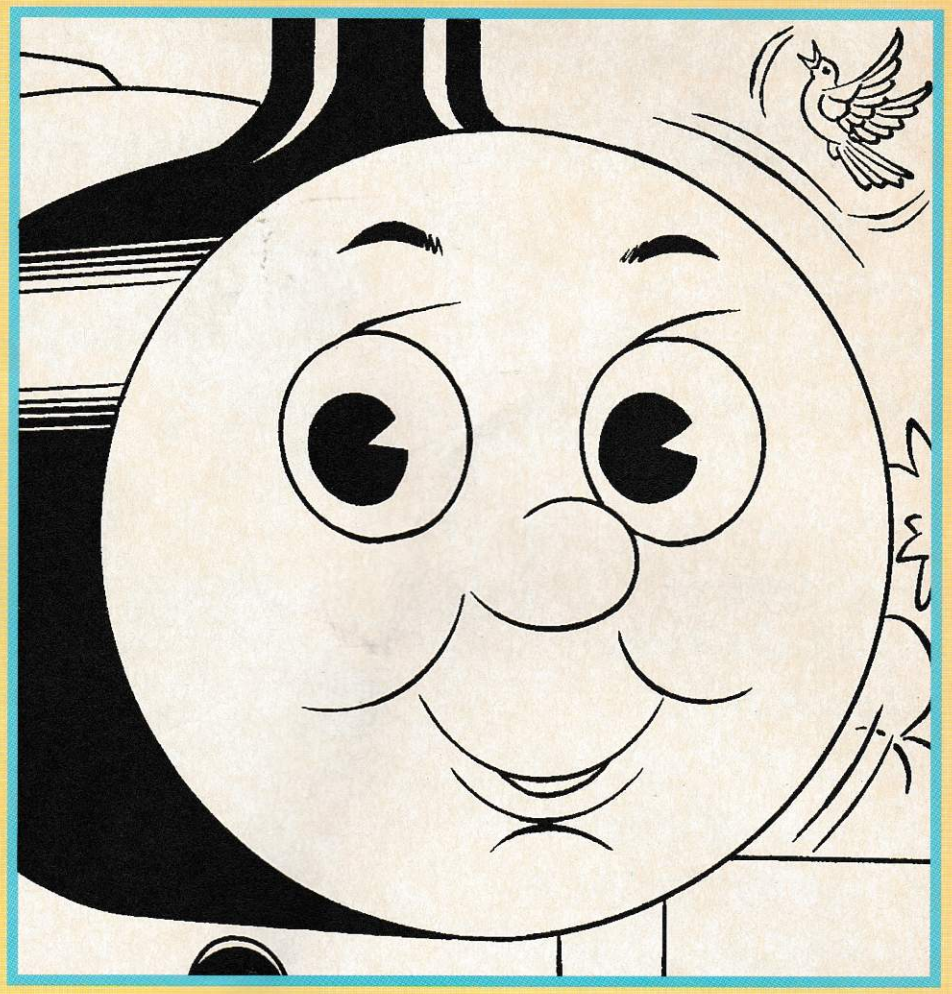
1 It was Donald's turn to pull the early morning milk train. Despite having to begin work before all the other engines, he liked pulling that train because he always saw the sun coming up to start the day. Also, along a section of track which ran beside a country road, he usually saw the Fat Controller trundling along in his car, on his way to the Main Station. This morning, though, the Fat Controller's car wasn't on the road. The only vehicle he could see was Bertie the Bus.

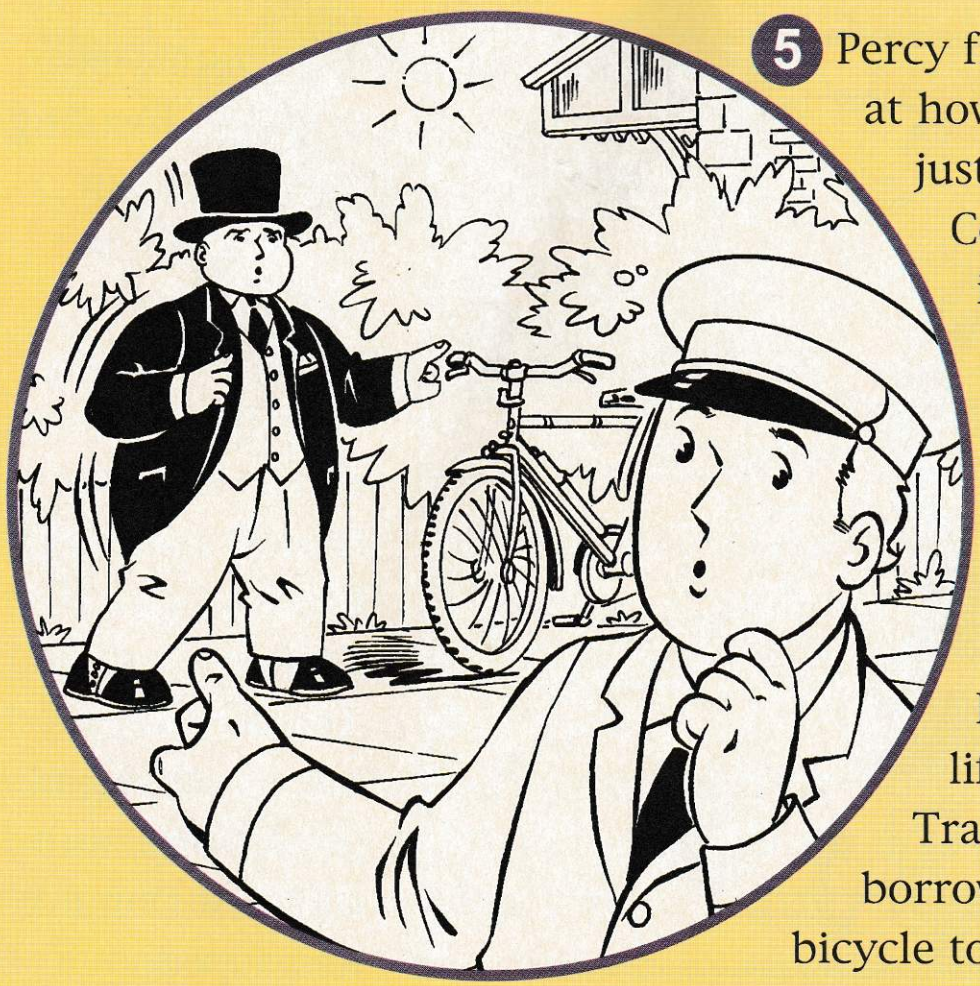
2 Soon Bertie crossed a bridge, and Donald saw the Fat Controller sitting on the bus! "With all the passengers he has to pick up on his way, Bertie takes ever such a long time to reach the Main Station from here," Donald said to himself. "The Fat Controller might be late for work for once!"



3 A little later, Douglas, heading the mail train that morning, saw the Fat Controller too. This time, he was riding with his friend, Farmer McConnell, on Terence the Tractor! They were crossing a field. "Och, wait till I tell Donald!" he gasped.

4 Meeting at the Main Station, the twins eagerly talked about what they had seen. "He'll nae be on time now," said Donald. Just then, Percy puffed up. "Guess who I've just seen riding a bike!" he said, excitedly. Donald and Douglas glanced at each other. "The Fat Controller?" they replied together.



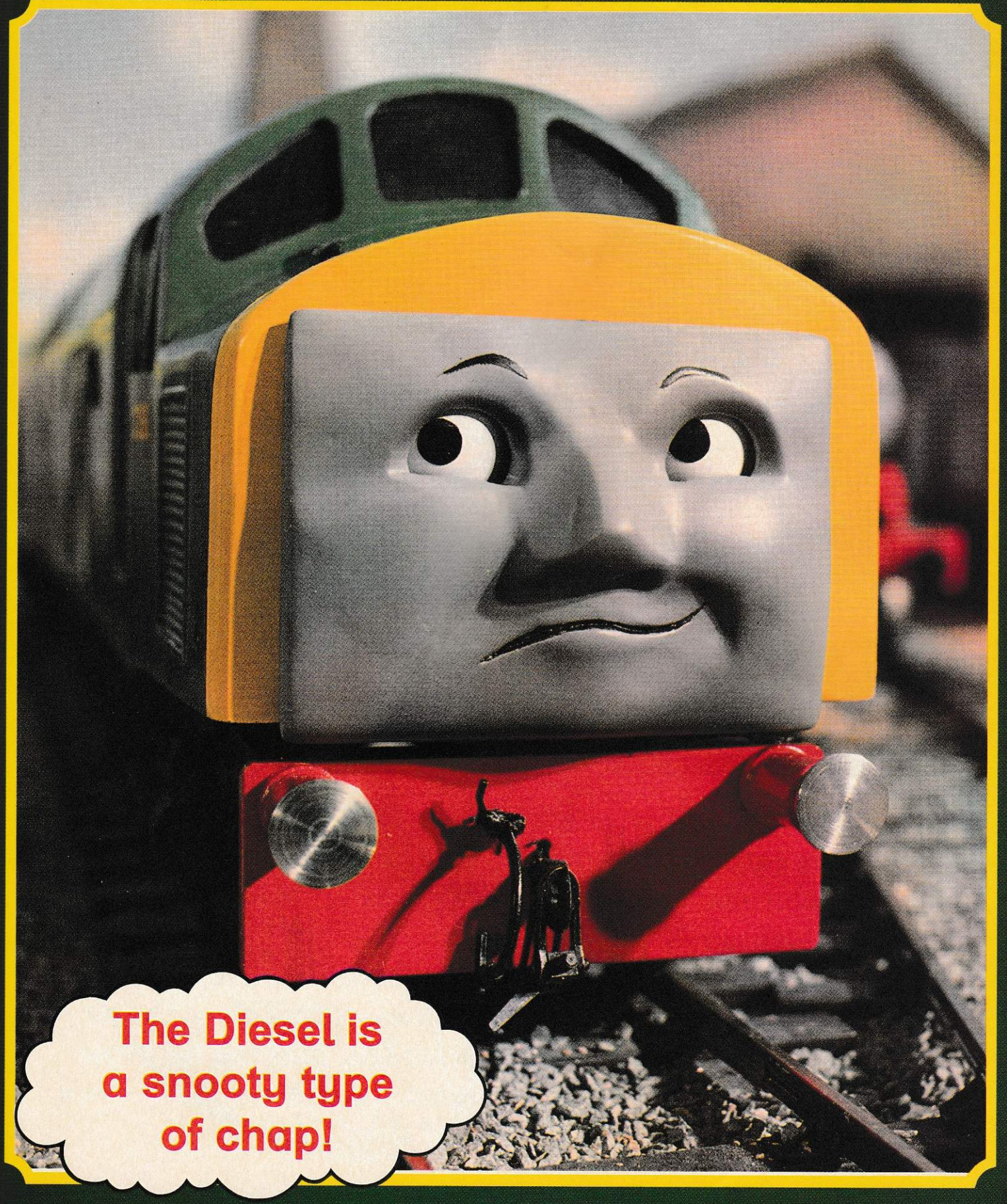


5 Percy frowned, puzzled at how they knew, but just then, the Fat Controller cycled into view. "What a journey I've had!" he told the Station Master. "My car wouldn't start! So I jumped aboard Bertie, then got a lift on Terence the Tractor, and finally I borrowed the Farmer's bicycle to get here!"

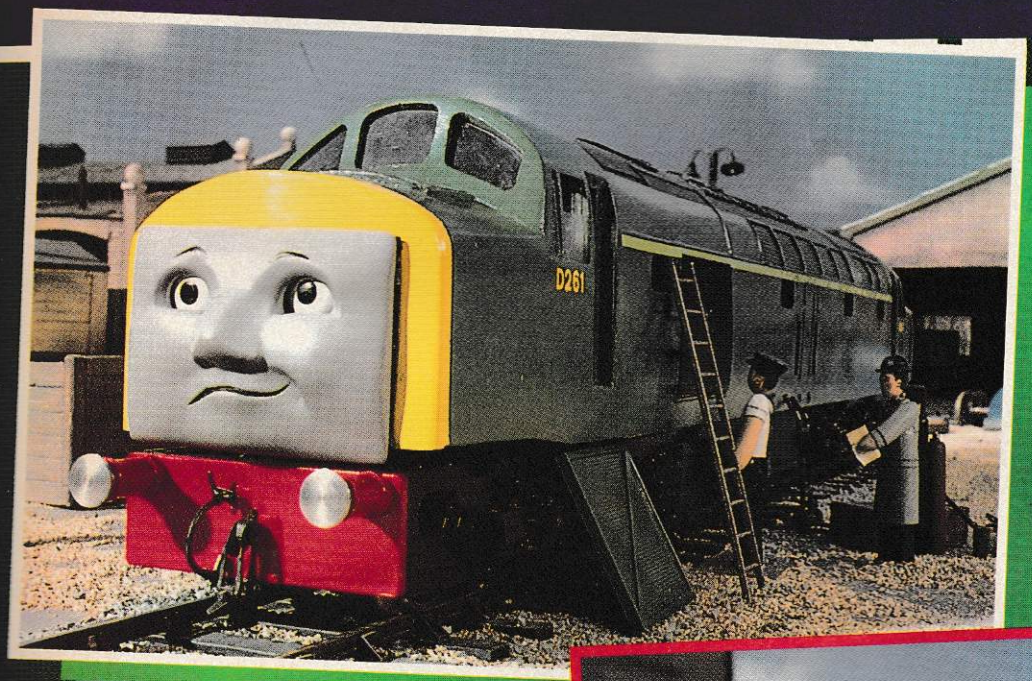
6 "Well done Sir!" whistled Percy with enthusiasm, while the Fat Controller took out a handkerchief to mop his brow. "And look," gasped Donald, glancing at the ticking platform clock, which showed it was seven o'clock precisely. "You're exactly on time, Sir!" "Well," chuckled the Fat Controller, still catching his breath after his extraordinary journey, "that's just like most of my engines. Although of course," he added, dabbing his brow again, "they have much more puff than I do!"

The end

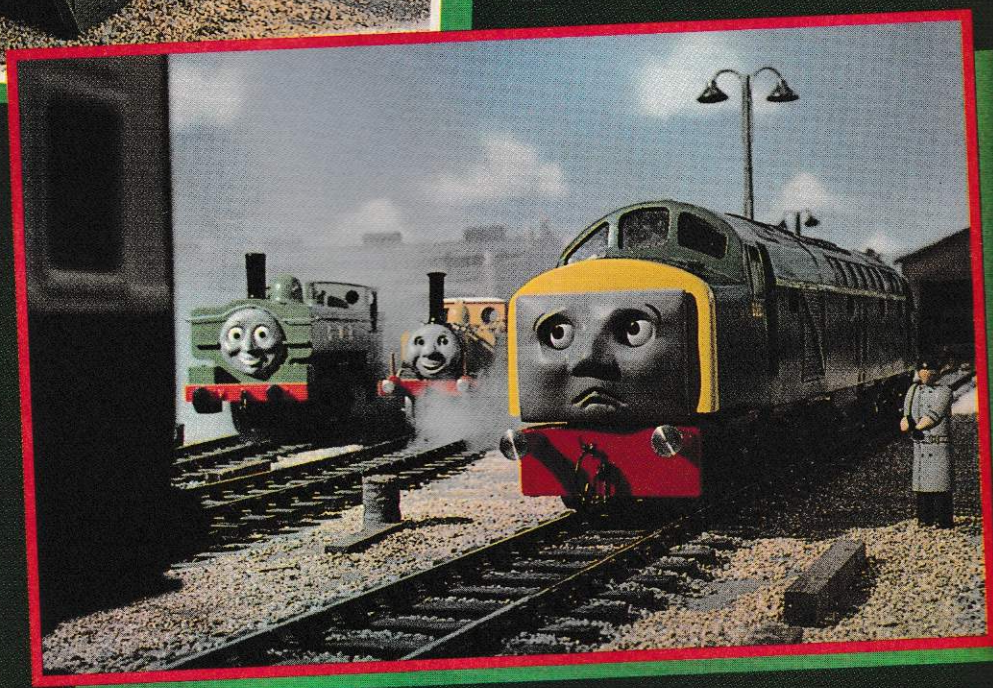
All about T



The Diesel!



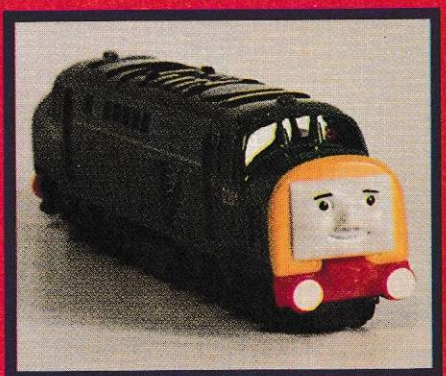
Like all Diesels, he thinks he knows and can do *everything!*



But at the end of the day, he knows that nothing chuffs like a 'chuff chuff' chuffs!

Win a model of The Diesel!

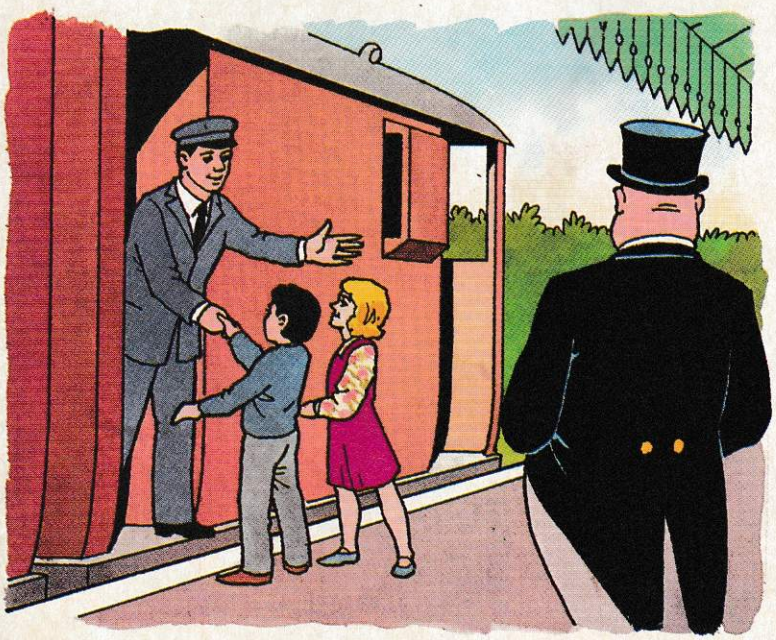
Five lucky winners will win a splendid model of The Diesel from the ERTL engine range! Just send a postcard, with your name, age and address to: Thomas/252 model competition, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 5UJ. Closing date: June 19th, 1997.



Garden Gangers

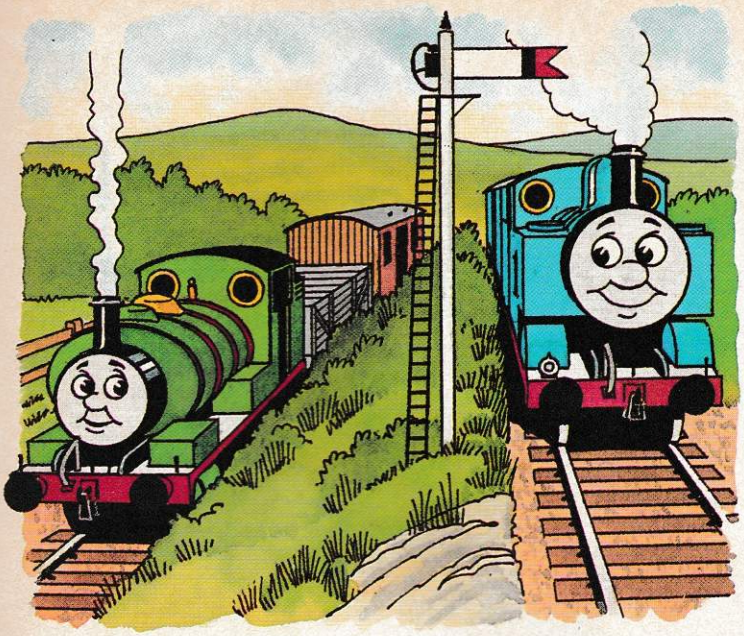
The weather had been all sunshine and showers for days. It had made the grass grow very long. So, one morning, the Fat Controller promised Lady Hatt he would cut the lawn in the back garden when he returned from the Main Station.

Before he set off for work, he wiped and oiled the lawnmower to get it ready. Then he noticed the metal grassbox that fitted to the front was broken. "I'll have it repaired at the Works today," he told Lady Hatt.



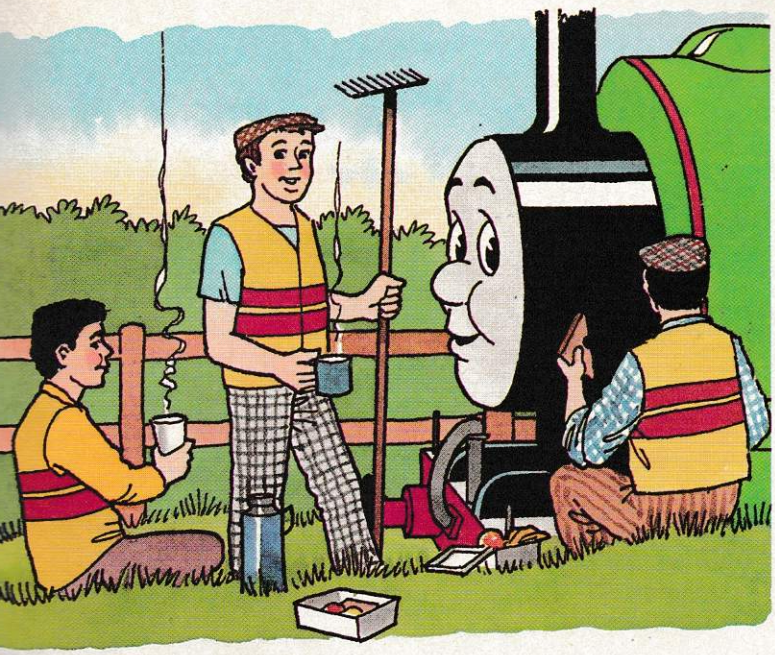
The Fat Controller took Stephen and Bridget with him, too. He had promised them a ride in Thomas' guard's van.

At the Main Station, the Fat Controller asked Duck's driver to take the grassbox to the Works. Then the Fat Controller saw his grandchildren safely aboard Thomas. "Don't worry, I'll look after them," said the guard.



The children were very excited as Thomas set off on his branch line. "We can pretend that we're guards!" they cried.

Out in the countryside, Thomas had to stop and wait at a signal. Nearby, Percy stood in a siding. "Peep, peep!" he whistled to his friend. Percy was coupled to a truck and a works van. Some railwaymen, called gangers, were busily trimming



back lots of long grass beside the track. "It's not just lawns that need cutting," Stephen said to Bridget. "Yes, it's very important to keep the track tidy," explained Thomas' guard.

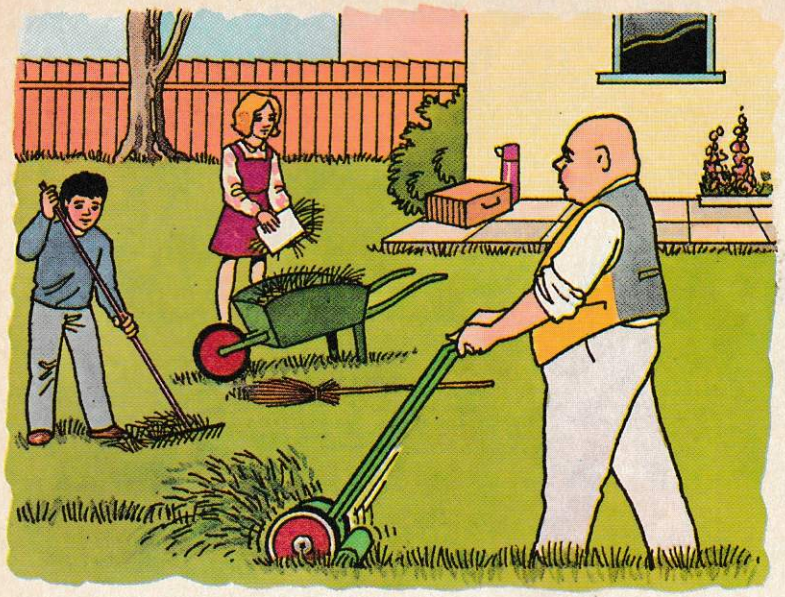
Stephen and Bridget watched the gangers rake up the long grass and load it into Percy's trucks. It was very hot work.

As it was lunchtime, the

workmen stopped for a rest. They sat down by Percy, to eat cheese sandwiches from their lunchboxes. They drank tea from flasks they'd brought with them. "Those gangers work very hard," said Stephen.

At last, Thomas got underway again. "Goodbye!" he puffed to Percy, and the children waved.

When they got back, the children told the Fat Controller



all about the gangers. "That reminds me, I have to cut the lawn," said the Fat Controller. So he set off home extra early with his grandchildren.

They hadn't been back long, when the Fat Controller realised he'd forgotten to collect the grassbox from the Works. "Oh, dear! The lawn badly needs cutting," said Lady Hatt.

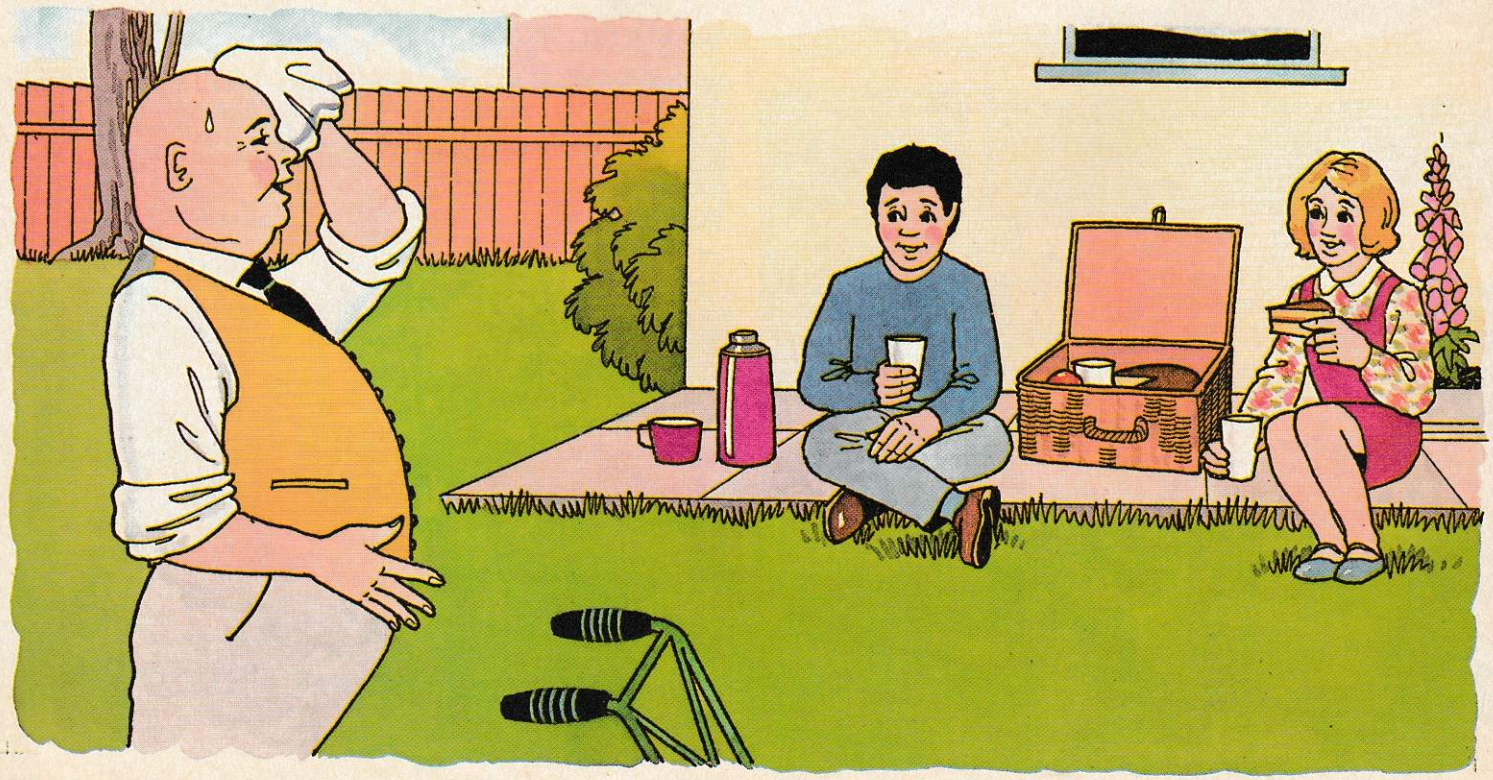
The Fat Controller had an idea. "Don't worry," he smiled. "It will still get done if Stephen and Bridget would like to be my *garden gangers*!"

The children thought it sounded fun, especially when Lady Hatt put some cake and sandwiches in a picnic box. She also filled a flask with orange juice.

Stephen and Bridget went into the garden with their grandpa. While he cut the lawn with his mower, they raked up the grass cuttings. "Just like gangers," they laughed.

"No slacking!" joked the Fat Controller, when Stephen and Bridget stopped work to open the picnic box. "Even *garden gangers* need a break!" Stephen laughed.

THE END



Garden game!

Gosh! Stephen has been busy!
can you help Bridget find him as it's time for tea?

How many fish can you see in the pond?

What is stephen doing in the garden?

What colour is Bridget's dress?

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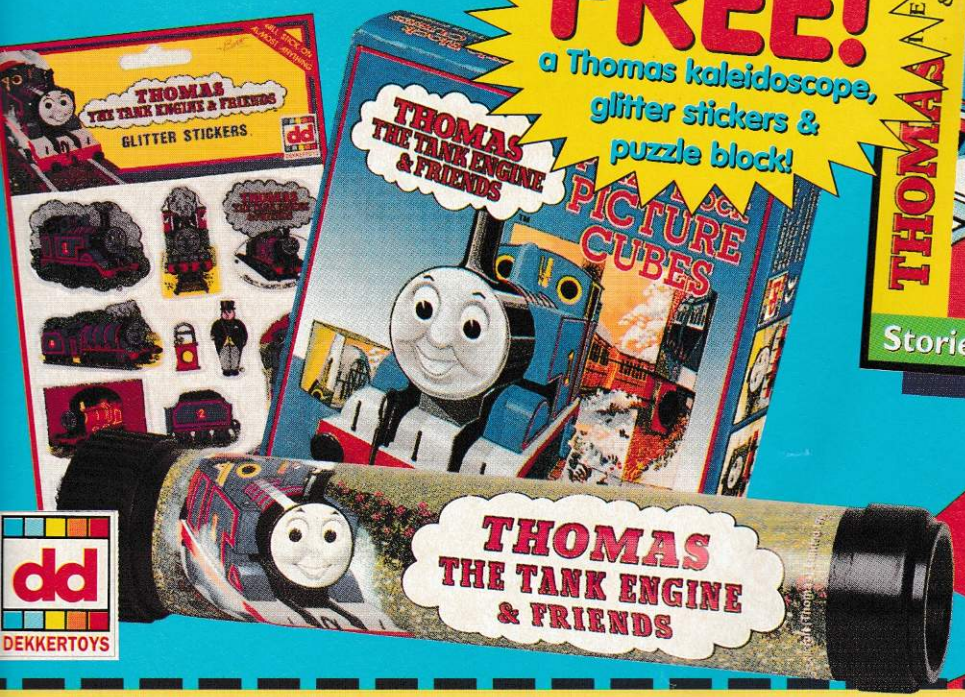

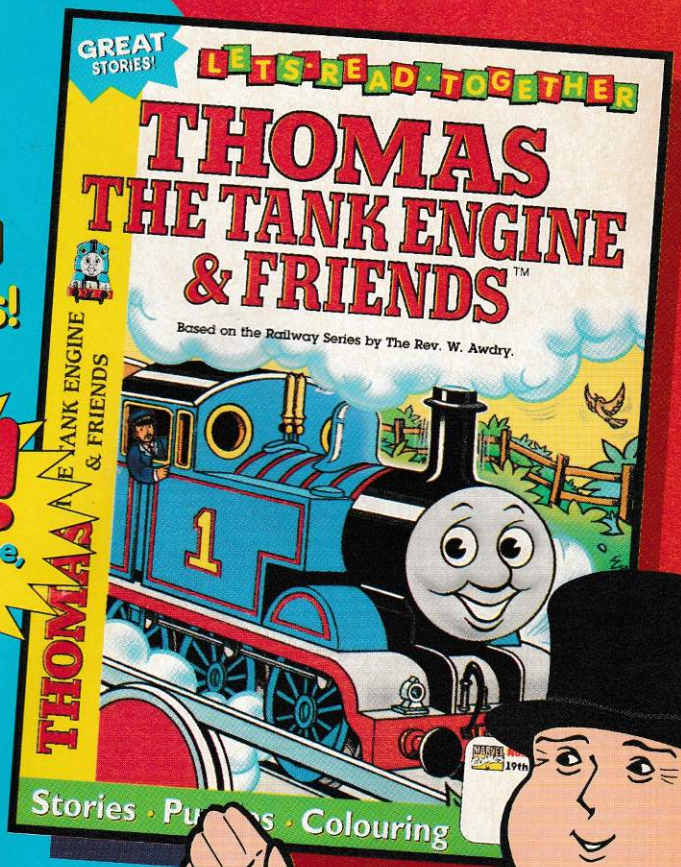

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PLAY AWAY!

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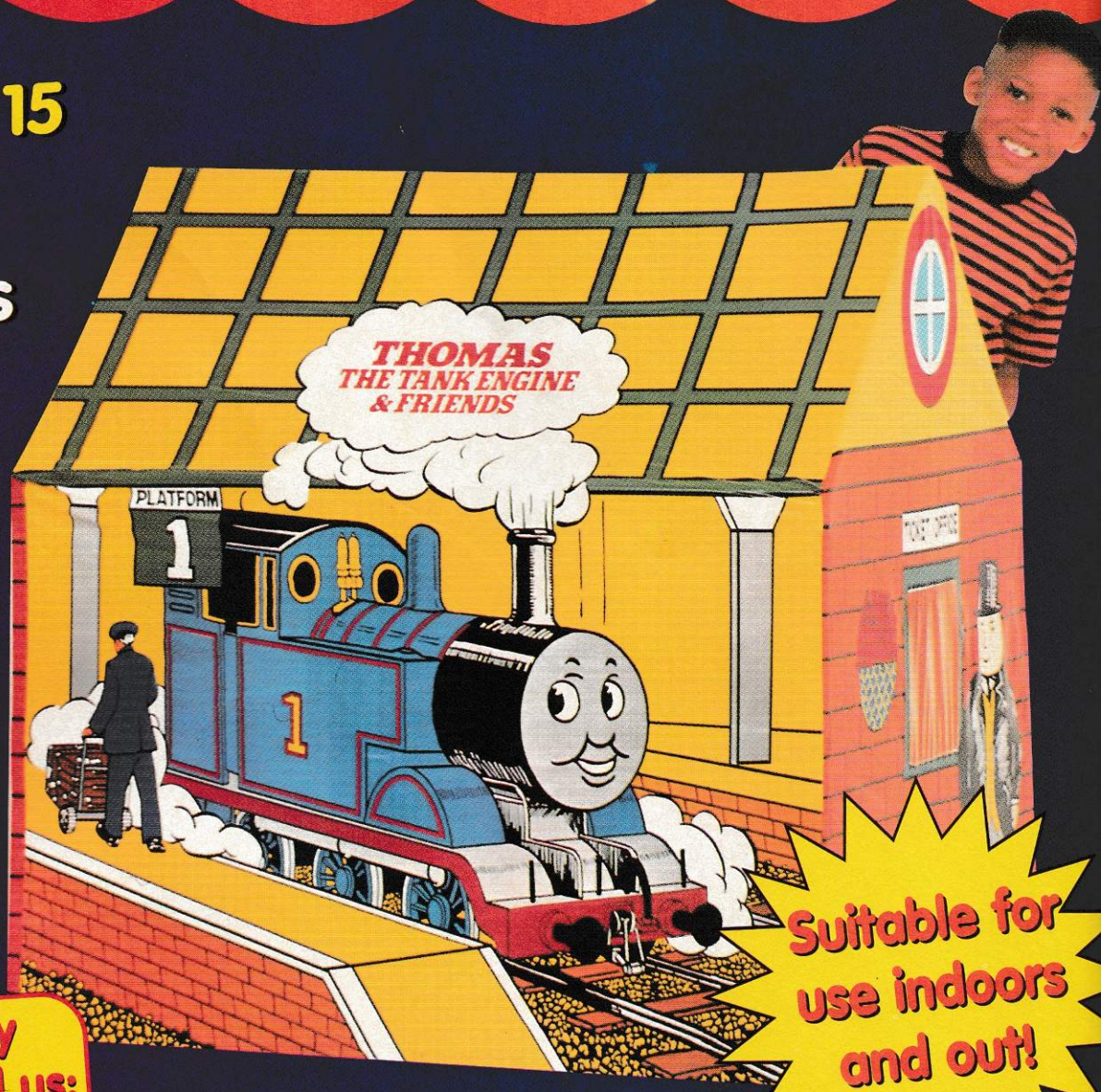

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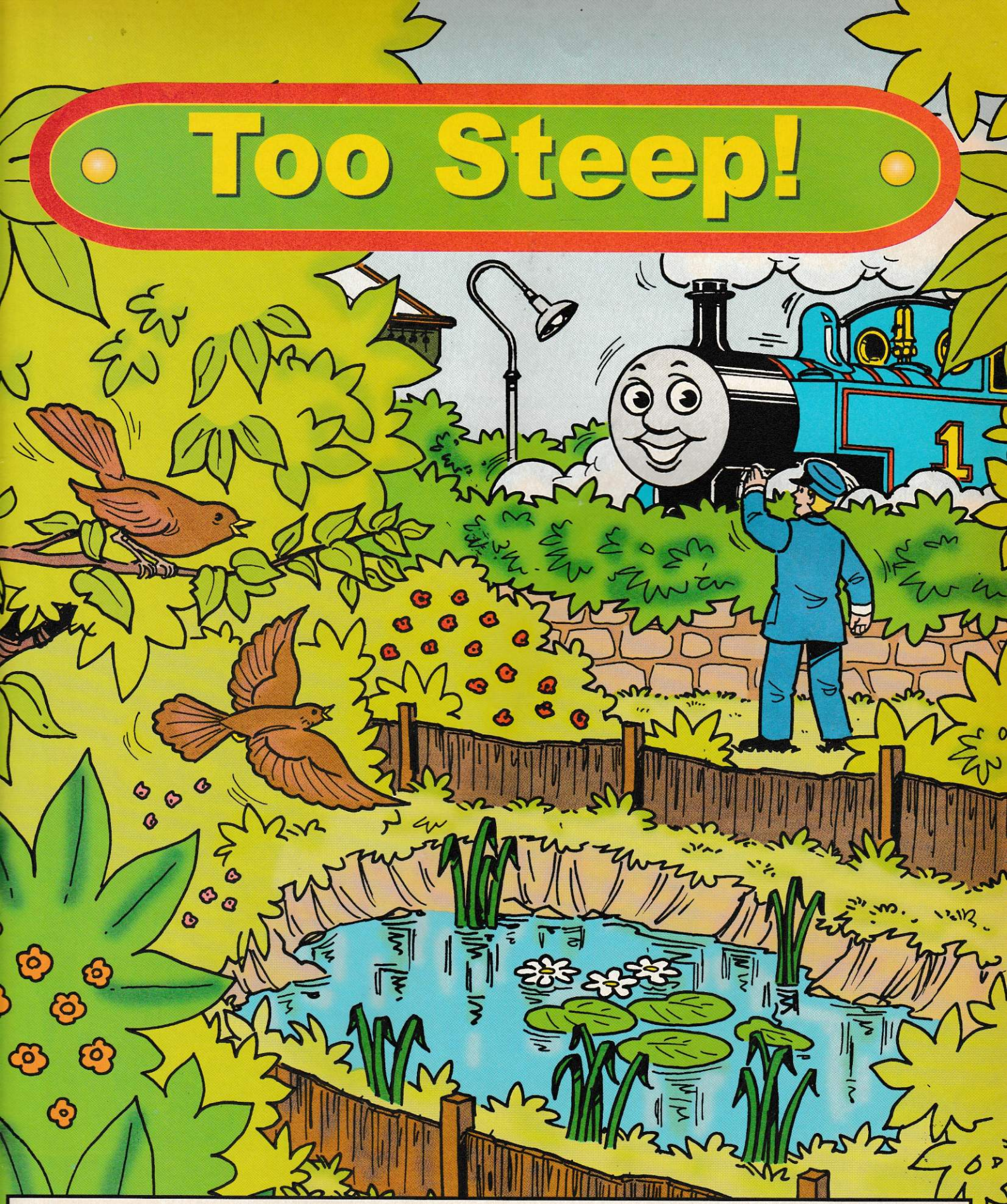
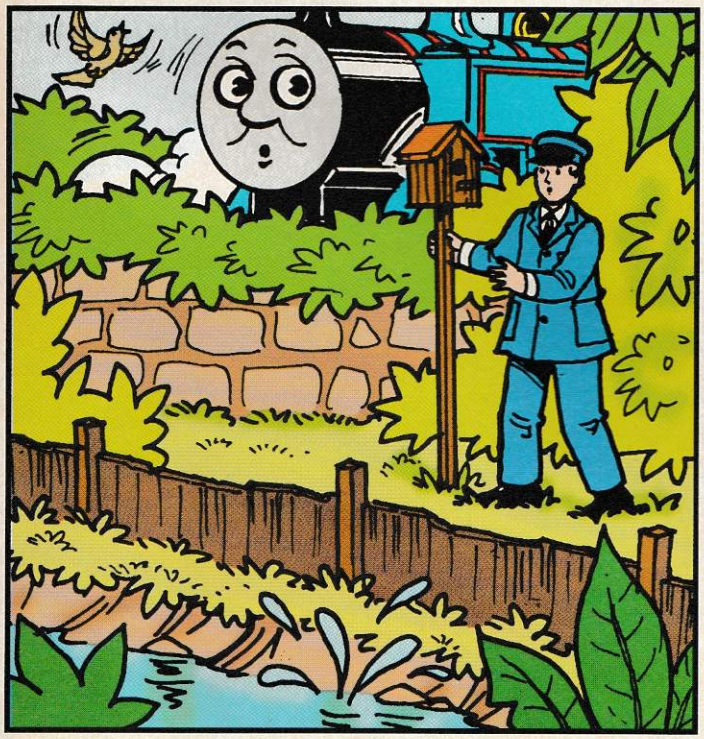


1. It was a beautiful spring day as Thomas steamed cheerily along his branch line with Annie and Clarabel, his faithful carriages. He puffed by the Stationmaster's lovely garden.

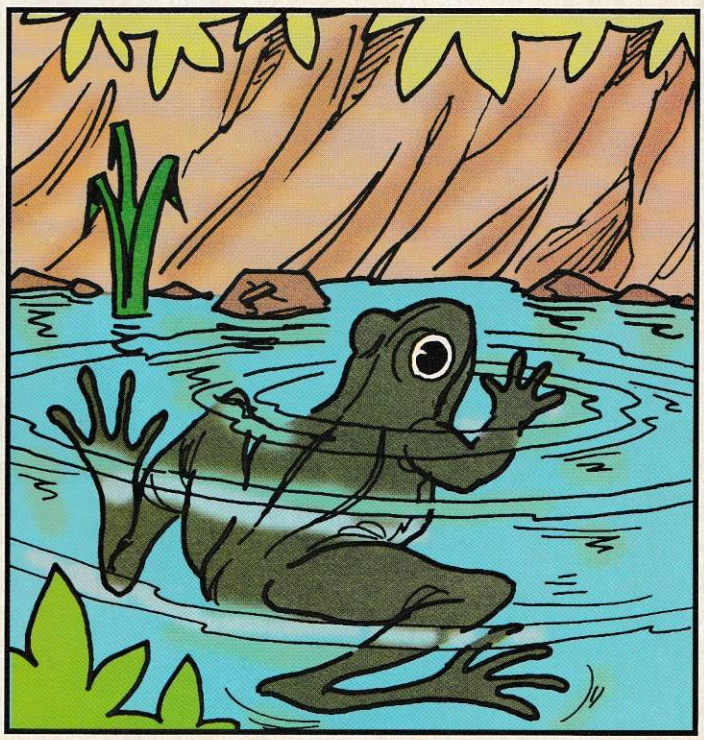
2. The Stationmaster waved to them. "Have you got my parcel?" he called. "Yes," Thomas replied and slowed to a halt. His driver got off with the Stationmaster's package.

3. "It's a bird box for all the wild birds in his garden," said his driver. Thomas could see the garden, by the platform. There were always lots of birds perched among the trees.

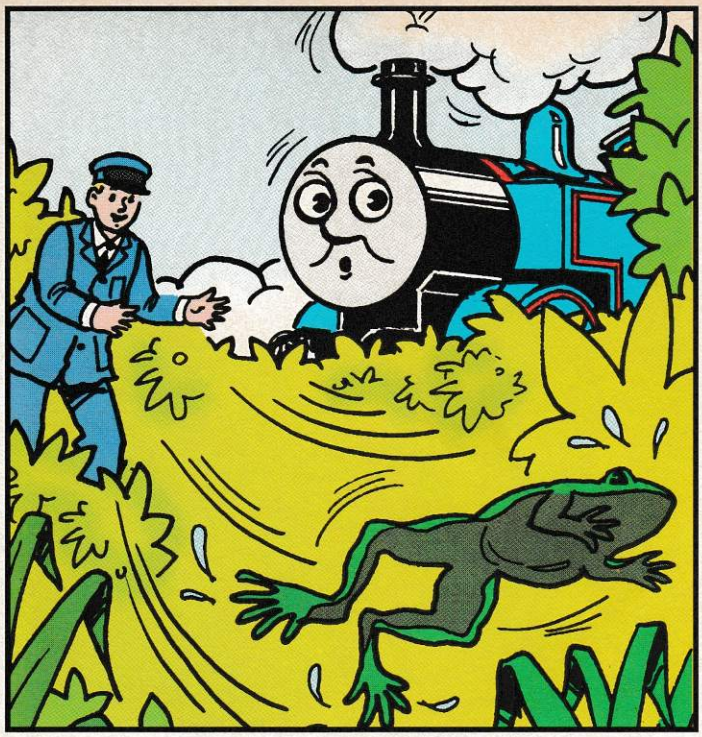
4. The Stationmaster was very proud of his garden. "I planned it to attract wildlife," he told the guard. "Bees, butterflies, squirrels and even badgers visit my garden!"



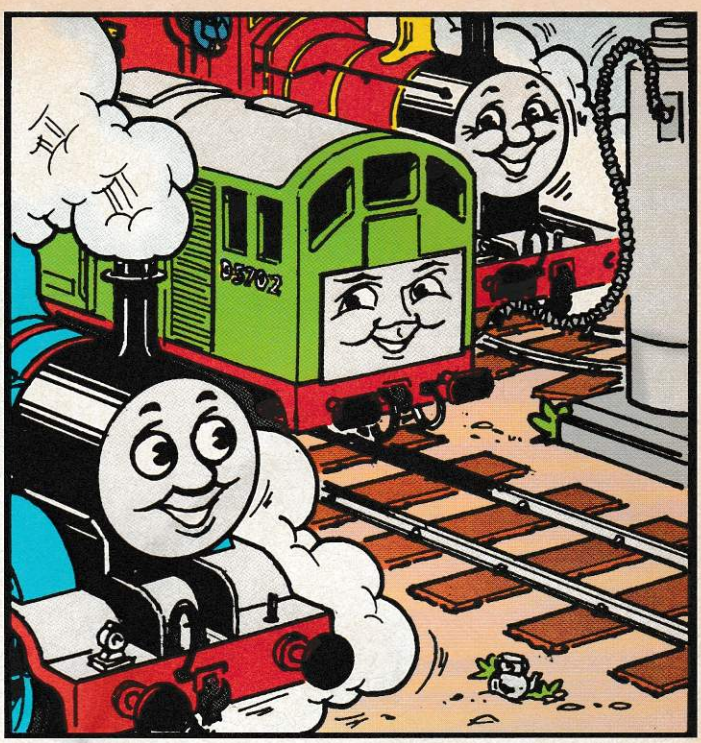
5. There was also a little pond in the garden. Thomas spotted something moving in the water. "It doesn't look like a fish," he told his driver. The stationmaster went over to see.



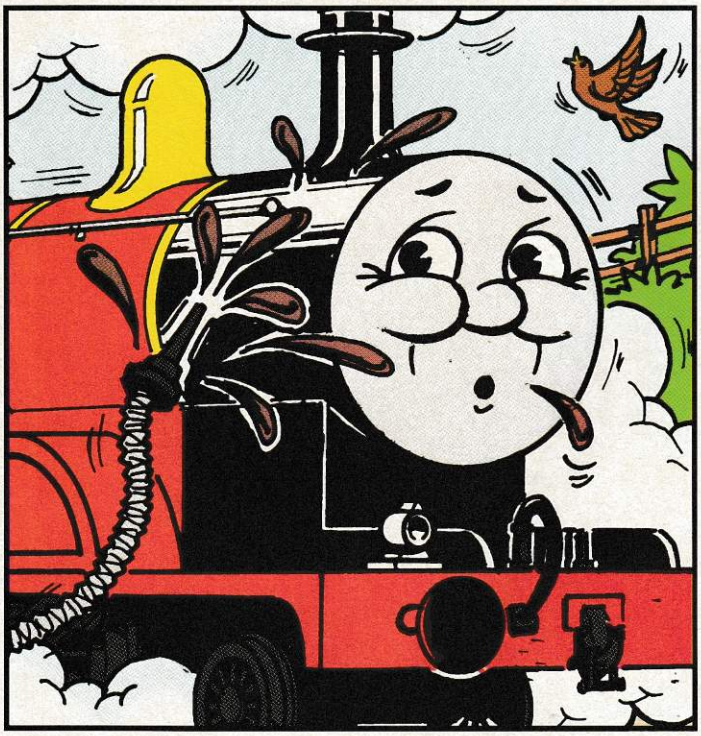
6. It was a frog, trying to climb out of the pond. "Well spotted, Thomas!" he called. "The frog has laid lots of frogspawn, in the water. But she can't get out again very easily."



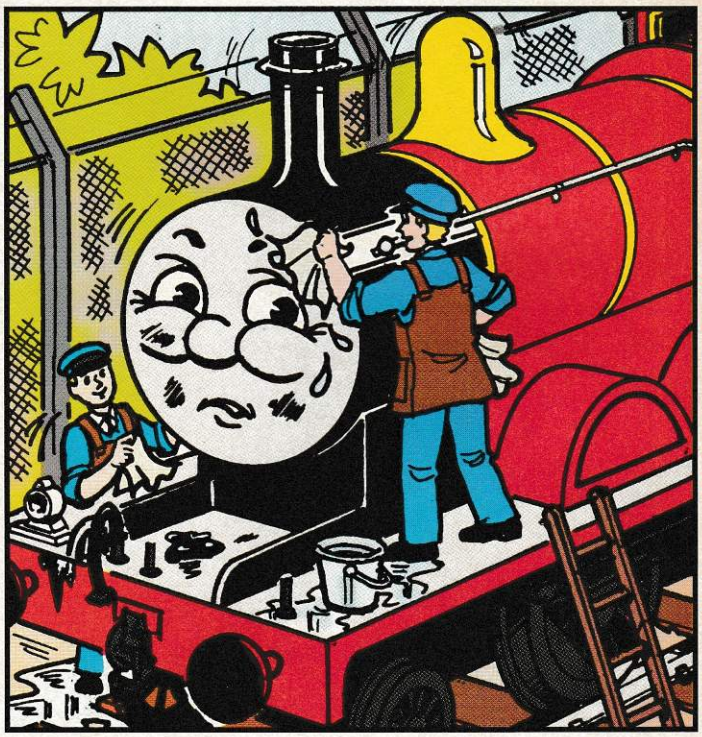
7. The Stationmaster gently lifted the frog clear and she hopped away. "The pond's too steep and slippery," he said. "Frogs don't want to stay in the water all the time."



8. Thomas thought about the frog for the rest of his journey. When he returned to the Main Station Yard, he saw James slowly passing BoCo, who was being refuelled with oil.



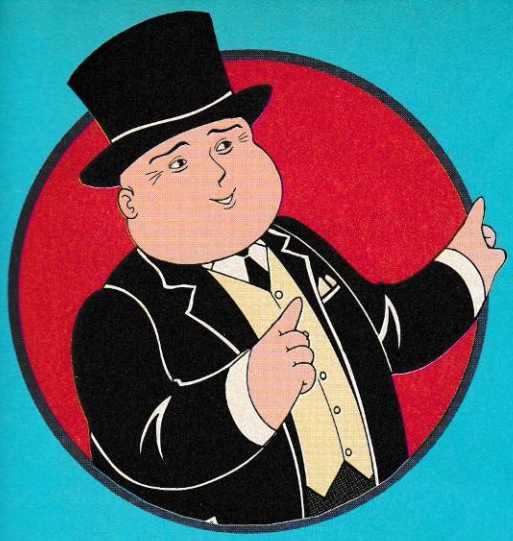
9. BoCo thought he was full up so he moved too soon. The fuel pipe slipped and the oil squirted all over James. "That was your fault, BoCo!" he cried. "What a mess I'm in!"



10. "My smart, red paint is ruined!" grumbled James. He made such a fuss that workmen began to clean him up, right away. They used a hose, soapy water, and cloths.

11. One workman leant a ladder against the side of James and climbed up it. "This is the only way I'll reach his brass dome to polish it," he called, "James is so steep and slippery." Thomas overheard. He had an idea and told his driver. "Marvellous! I'll set to work as soon as I get home," he replied. Next morning, Thomas passed the Stationmaster's garden again.

12. The Stationmaster was very surprised when the driver gave him a little wooden ladder he had built. "It's to go in your pond," the driver explained, "for the frogs to use!" "It's just the job!" the Stationmaster smiled, as he leant the tiny ladder against the side of the pond. "I'd never have thought of that idea!" "Neither would I, if it hadn't been for James," smiled Thomas.



The m

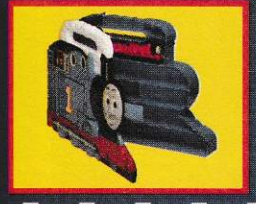
Please send your letters, pictures and drawings to Mail Train, Thomas, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 5UJ.

Star Letter

Dear Fat Controller,
What does Thomas dream about?

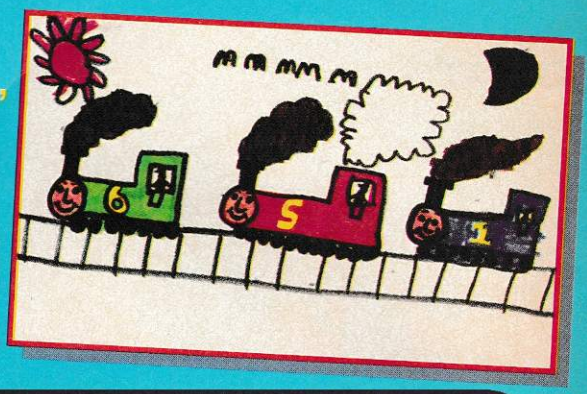
From Jake Collins, aged 3 (nearly!).

Cheeky Thomas was telling me about a super dream he had last night! He was on holiday all summer at the seaside, having heaps of fun! I think he was hinting, don't you?



The sender of any letter that is printed as our STAR LETTER will win a splendid Thomas carry case!

It's Thomas, James & Percy by Matthew Wareing, aged 5!



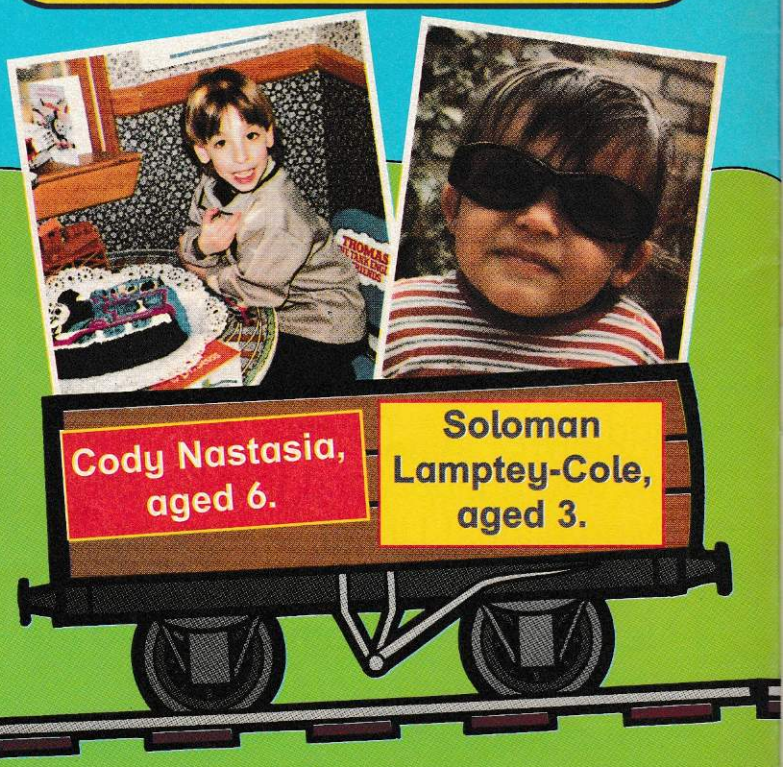
Prize Poem!

Paul Miller, aged 5, sent me this cheery little poem about Thomas and his friends!

Thomas is a Tank Engine,
Bertie is a Bus.
Terence is a Tractor,
Who never makes a fuss!

Happy Birthday

Jamie Dinning, aged 3,
Adam Jackson, aged 3,
Christopher Massam, aged 4,
Thomas Cory, aged 3,
Christopher Cooper, aged 4,
Ashley Hugo, aged 3
& Jacob Robson, aged 3!



Cody Nastasia, aged 6.

Soloman Lamptey-Cole, aged 3.

ail train!

Anyone who has a drawing printed on this page will win a set of special Thomas Glitter Stickers.

Peep Peep! Here comes little Thomas by Nicholas George, aged 3!

Happy Thomas is having a very blue day by Joseph Knight, aged 4!

Percy's Jokes

Have you got a favourite joke or funny story? Why not send it to Percy?

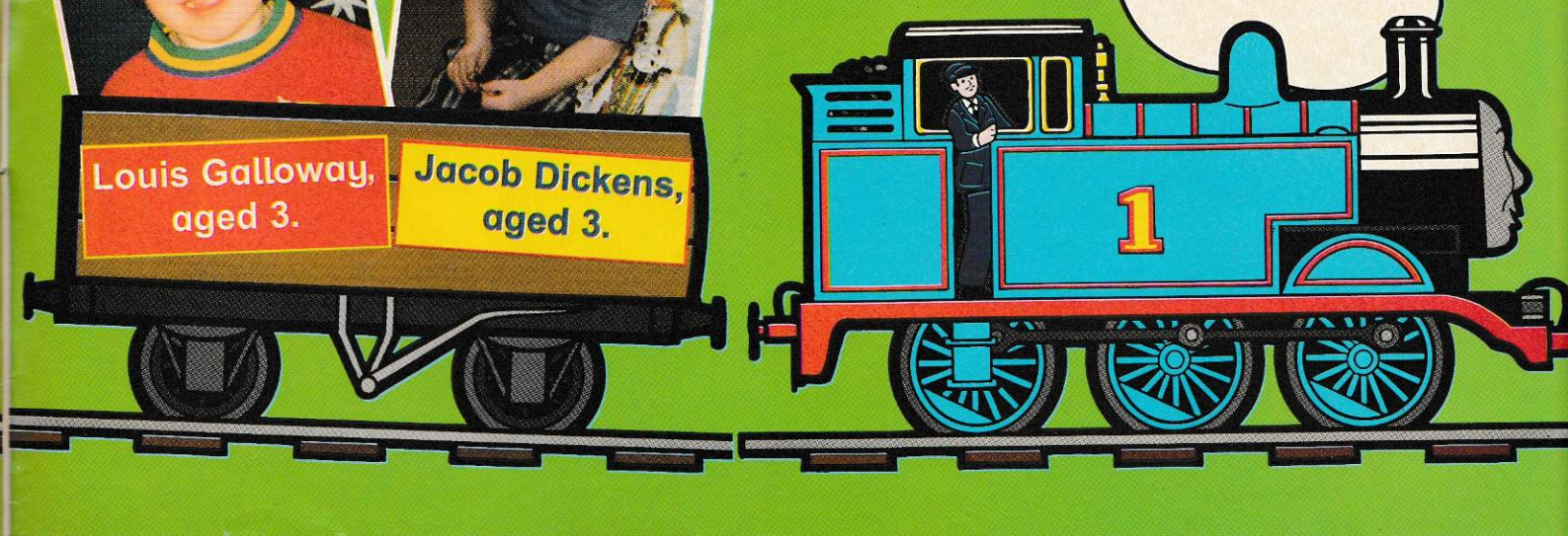
Why did the Jelly Baby go to school?
Because he wanted to be a Smartie!
Christopher Brown, aged 4.

How do you start a teddy bear race?
Ready, Teddy, Go!
Ian Fraser, aged 3.

I can make you talk like a Red Indian.
How?
See, I told you!
Gregory Baynham, aged 6.

Louis Galloway, aged 3.

Jacob Dickens, aged 3.



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- Have letters and drawings inspected, stamped and returned by The Fat Controller
- Receive advance news of Thomas events and activities
- Enter exclusive Thomas competitions to win great prizes
- Share the fun of membership with a special grown-up

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0990 466646

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Club Badge & Membership Card

The Thomas Express Club Newspaper

Log Book of games, puzzles and activities

plus, during the year;

Three further mailings of The Thomas Express and extra pages for your Log Book

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TC101

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Adult's Name (Ms/Miss/Mrs/Mr) _____

Child's Date of Birth _____

Boy/Girl _____

Member's Address _____

_____

Tel _____

Postcode _____

I enclose a cheque/postal order made payable to 'The Thomas Club' for £9.99 **or** please charge my Visa/Mastercard, the amount of £_____

Credit Card No. _____

Expiry date _____

(BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)

Name of cardholder (Ms/Miss/Mrs/Mr)

_____

Signature of Cardholder

_____

Send your completed form to: The Thomas Club, PO Box 355, Bushey, Watford WD2 2NA.

Please add your name and address on a separate sheet of paper if the cardholders address is different from the proposed member. Allow 28 days for delivery.

http://www.thomasthetankengine.com

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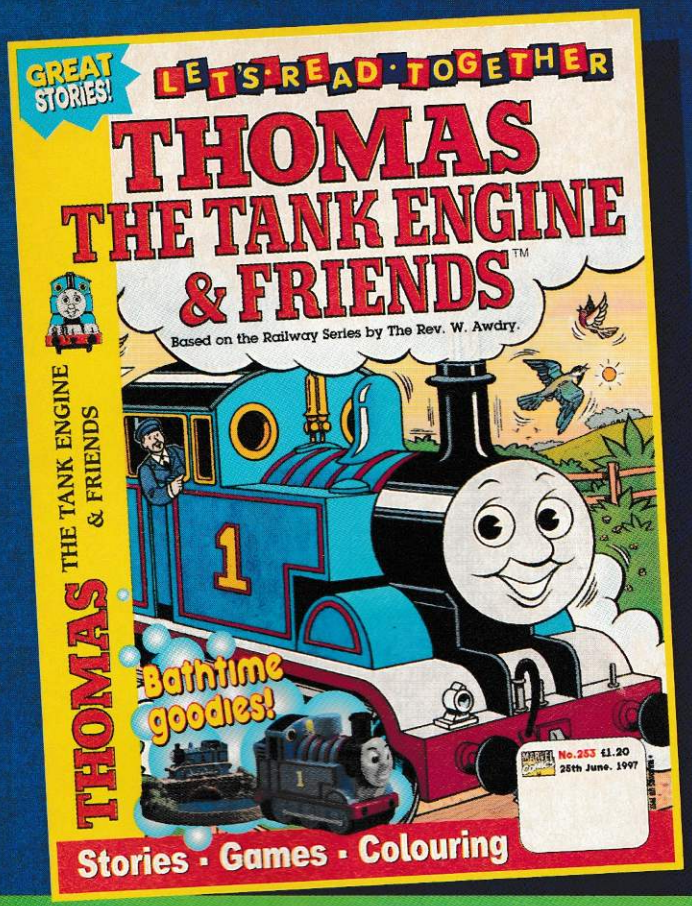
In issue 253 of . . .



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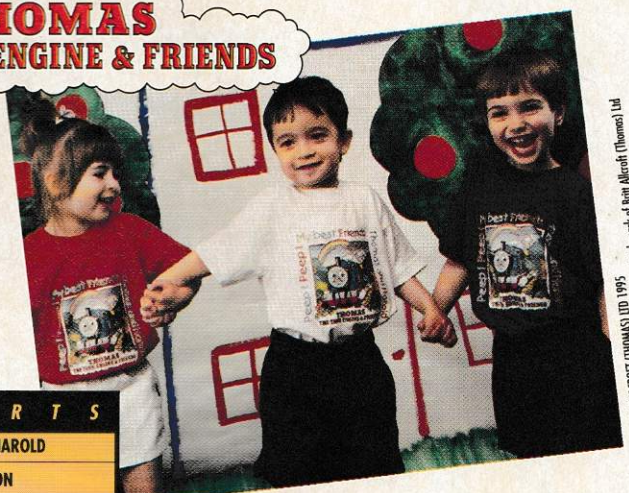

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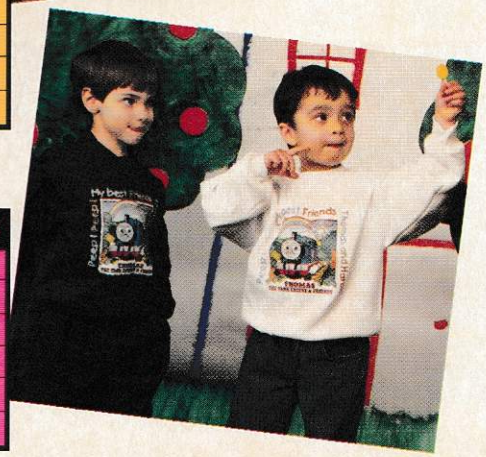

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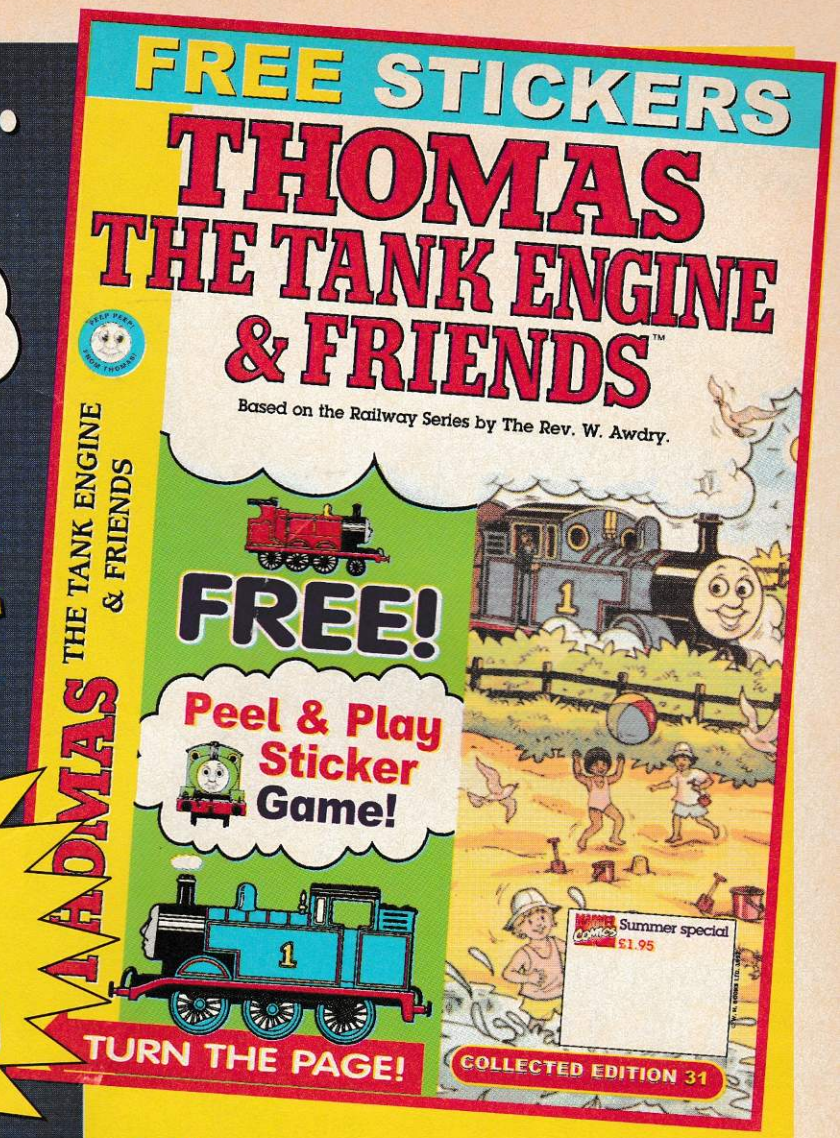

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